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### Two Montana teams open defense of titles

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TWO MONTANA TEAMS OPEN  
DEFENSE OF TITLES

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# um sports

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Two defending Big Sky championship University of Montana teams open their season this weekend on the road.

The Grizzly swim team, after its record sixth straight Big Sky championship, travels to Cheney, Wash. for a Saturday dual meet with Eastern Washington. The league winning Montana skiers attack the slopes at Bozeman's Bridger Bowl in the Montana State Invitational meet this Saturday and Sunday.

Both the Montana skiers and swimmers are favored to retain their titles in the Big Sky championships in February; however, both Tip coaches see a rocky road ahead.

Montana swim coach Fred Stetson said Big Sky pool competition will be the roughest since he came to Montana in 1964. Idaho with its beefed up program and million dollar aquatics facility and Idaho State seem to be the major threats to the Grizzly kingdom this year.

Tip ski coach Rusty Lyons said Montana State and Weber are the teams chasing Montana on the slopes this season. The Grizzlies ended the MSU reign as Big Sky ski champions last season scoring a close 362 to 349 win in the finals.

Leading Stetson's swimmers is triple winner Dave Garard. The Missoula sophomore won the Big Sky 50-yd. freestyle, 200-yd. butterfly and 100-yd. butterfly. Garard holds conference records in both butterfly events.

Also back on the Grizzly team are Big Sky doubles champions Kurt von Tagen who won the 200 and 500-yd. freestyle events and Dave Allen who took the one and three meter diving titles. Von Tagen holds Big Sky records in the 200, 500 and 1,000-yd. freestyle events, while Allen holds both conference diving marks.

The other conference winner back for Montana is Fred Poole. Poole is 100-yd. freestyle champion.

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In all, Stetson has eight lettermen returning and the same number freshmen. "We have a strong veteran nucleus for the first places. However, our freshmen are young and untested. We really don't know how good the new swimmers are until they compete in meets," the five time Big Sky Swim Coach of the Year said. He is counting on the younger swimmers for depth.

Stetson said he didn't know too much about Eastern Washington, but he expects the Montana swimmers to win the meet.

Lyons has nearly the same team back that won the 1970 title. Leading the Tip slopemen are Big Sky champions Gary Keltz, cross country, and Tom Zachary, downhill. Zachary finished 12th in the NCAA slalom and 14th in the national giant slalom. Montana had eight national finalists last year and finished 12th as a team.

Gone from the 1970 team is Big Sky Skimeister Jan Wessel. However, he is the only one. Back are Craig Menteer, Kenn Hugos, Mike Dillon, Allan Anderson, and Tim Potter, all national finalists. Also returning is Mick Hagestad, a Big Sky finalist.

Lyons has some bright young prospects in freshman Jon Williamson, Bozeman; Steve Brooksbank, Stillwater, Minn.; Tom Hayes, Billings and Tom Staples, Butte.

Lyons also was Big Sky Ski Coach of the Year in 1970.

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